

C<sup>2</sup> vacuum cleaner, and the bottom of the first and second dirt collection chambers lie in a common plane.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 34 to 38 and 44 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 31, 39 and 40 as follows.

31. An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:
- (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface, the cleaning head having a dirty air inlet;
  - (b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head, the upper body portion having a cyclonic cleaning unit comprising at least first and second cyclonic cleaning stages, the first cyclonic cleaning stage comprises a single cyclone and has a first dirt collection chamber having a bottom, the second cyclonic cleaning stage positioned in series with the first cyclonic cleaning stage and has a second dirt collection chamber having a bottom and the cyclonic cleaning unit is removable from the vacuum cleaner, and the bottom of the first and second dirt collection chambers lie in a common plane; and,
  - (c) a source of suction to draw into the dirty air inlet and through the vacuum cleaners.
39. The upright vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 31 wherein the second cyclonic cleaning stage is positioned above the first cyclonic cleaning stage.
40. An upright vacuum cleaner comprising:
- (a) a cleaning head for cleaning a surface, the cleaning head having a dirty air inlet;
  - (b) an upper body portion mounted on the cleaning head, the upper portion having a cyclonic cleaning unit comprising at least first and second cyclonic cleaning stages, the second cyclonic cleaning stage positioned in series with the first cyclonic cleaning stage and the cyclonic cleaning unit is removable from the vacuum cleaner;
  - (c) the first cyclonic cleaning stage has a first dirt collection chamber having a bottom, the second cyclonic cleaning stage comprises a plurality of cyclones and has a single second dirt collection chamber having a bottom and the bottom of the first and second dirt collection chambers lie in a common plane; and,
  - (d) a source of suction to draw into the dirty air inlet and through the vacuum cleaners.

Please insert new claims 45 – 48 which are set out below:

45. The upright vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 33 wherein the second cyclonic cleaning stage is positioned above the first cyclonic cleaning stage.

46. The upright vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 32 wherein the second cyclonic cleaning stage is positioned above the first cyclonic cleaning stage.

47. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 41 wherein the second cyclonic cleaning stage is positioned above the first cyclonic cleaning stage whereby dirt separated by the cyclonic cleaning stages falls due gravity into each of the dirt collection chambers.

48. The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 47 wherein the first cyclonic cleaning stage comprises a single cyclone.